* First Jewish immigrants in North America came from Brazil.
* They originated from the Iberian Peninsula in Western Europe but immigrated to Brazil during the Spanish Inquisition around the year 1492.
* In 1642, the Portuguese conquered the Brazilian port of Recife from the Dutch and because the Jews were fearful of their lives, they fled to New Amsterdam (present-day New York) in America.
* During the 18th century, much of the society welcomed Jews. They lived in various cities throughout the thirteen colonies.
* By 1820, about 2,700 Jewish people lived in the colonies and they set up synagogues and there was a large amount of religious toleration.
* In 1860, there were 150,000 Jews and 200 synagogues.
* For much of the 19th century, Jews had a tough time living in Germany and many eastern European countries.
* By 1940 there were 4.7 million jews in America making up almost 4% of the country’s population.
* Popular Jewish areas were the north end of Boston, South Philadelphia, East Baltimore, NY’s Lower East Side. They brought Yiddish culture.
* Between 1975 and 1990 over 250,000 Jewish immigrants came to America from the Soviet Union.
* By 2001, there were roughly 6 million Jews in America (2.3%).
* In 2001, the state of New York has 9% Jews.
* 1880-1924 Jewish population went from 250,000 to 4.5 million in America.

http://www.theshipslist.com/pictures/russian.htm

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/33/2010\_cent\_obverse.jpg

Jack Rickles  
Period 9

January 5, 2011

Immigration Paragraph

Even though there were originally very few Jews in America, they have migrated in great numbers and have become a very integral part of the society. The majority of Jewish people originated from Europe and Spain in particular had a multitude of Jews before 1500. In 1492, during the height of the Spanish Inquisition, many of the Jews in Europe moved to Brazil and other South American countries so that they weren’t killed at the order of King Ferdinand. After centuries of living in South America, they were under attack again and decided to seek religious toleration in New Amsterdam, present day New York. The Jewish population in America grew quickly and between 1640 and 1860, 150,000 Jews immigrated to America and created more than 200 synagogues. By 1940, the Jewish population skyrocketed and they made up almost 4% of the American population, with 4.5 million people countrywide. Even though the Jewish people were forced to leave Europe, they were warmly welcomed into America and now there are around 6 million American Jews.

The photograph that I chose distinctly displays the conventions of Jewish immigration into America and the photo shows a lot about the sentiments of immigrants coming to this country. The photo is from 1911 and is of a Russian-Jewish family consisting of a mother and four children who are on the boat on the way to America in search of work. Behind them there are many other people who are standing and watching take the picture, but it is clear that the ship is very crowded and that there is not much room to move. Many of the men in the background have long beards and black hats, conventional clothes of Jewish men at the time.

A very influential Jewish immigrant in the history of America is Victor David Brenner who was born in 1871 in Siauliai, Lithuania. When he was nineteen years old he sailed across the Baltic Sea and the Northern Atlantic Ocean and lived in New York City. He attended the Cooper Union art school in New York City and mastered in sculpting and engraving with the skills that his father had taught him in Europe. In 1908 the United States Mint was searching for a new design to appear on the front of the penny, and coin worth 1/100 of dollar. His design was the exact engraving that appears on every copper penny even today, more than a century after it was created. The face of the coin includes the profile view of Abraham Lincoln, the year that the coin was minted, and the phrases, “In God We Trust,” and, “Liberty.”

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